



# The Rail Gunner Weekly

## 41st Fires Brigade



1-21 FA



2-20 FA



589th BSB



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### 41st Fires Brigade

*Rail Gunners!*

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## Falahea IPs showing steady progress



Capt. Thwqfir points out the approximate location of the point-of-origin of the indirect fire attack on FOB Delta April 8. The attack occurred the night before and Thwqfir explains to Staff Sgt. Micheal Eastwick where the possible POO site was.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The day after FOB Delta was hit by indirect fire, members of 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, 772nd Military Police Company visited their partner station in the Falahea district for a regular visit.

They arrived at the police station just after 7 a.m., waking the station chief Capt. Thwqfir. After the morning introductions, Capt. Thwqfir explained that the reason why he wasn't up when the MPs arrived was because he had a late night investigating the point-of-origin of the indirect fire attack.

The patrol leader, Staff Sgt. Micheal Eastwick, began taking notes on the information and intelligence as Thwqfir described the night's events and how the local IPs, Special Response Team police and Kut Special Weapons and Tactics worked together at securing the site and recovering two rockets.

"By far, he's probably one of the best commanders to have up there; very progressive as far as law enforcement techniques and he really knows what has to be done as far as investigatory skills with things like the POO sites and serving warrants," said Eastwick. "Very reliable, very trustworthy."

The squad has been working with Thwqfir since they took over the mission from the 511th MP Co., in

January 2009. Eastwick says that the biggest improvement over the past couple of months has been the inter-agency communication between the different law enforcement agencies in Kut.

"When we first started this, there was virtually no communication whatsoever; he was very adamant in pushing more of a unilateral communication between the different agencies," said Eastwick.

The cooperation between the different agencies with the investigation of the POO site is also a sign that the Iraqi Police as a whole are getting better, said Eastwick.

"They are working more with the SRTs to do warrants and to do different investigations, for example the POO site last night, SRT found it and they brought the IPs in and started the investigation," said Eastwick.

Many of the Taunton, Mass., based National Guard Military Police Company are civilian police officers when not on active duty so they have direct insight into how inter-agency communication is a challenge for them on the civilian side as well.

"It seems like they're starting to overcome the jurisdictional animosity that normally exists with any law enforcement agency at any level," said Eastwick.

When asked how the cooperation is between the 772nd MPs and the Falahea Iraqi Police, Capt. Thwqfir replied, "Our relationship with the U.S. forces here is better than good."

# New training approach for IPs proves sustainable

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The 772nd Military Police Company and the Iraqi Police Advisor team are starting a new approach to Iraqi Police training that will provide a sustainable training system for when coalition forces leave Iraq.

“Our overall goal is to start a program in Wasit that can be a model for the rest of the country of Iraq,” said Staff Sgt. Elton Dean, headquarters squad leader, 772nd MP Co. “So what we want to do is give the Minister of Interior a reason to institute a program like this in order to make the entire country of Iraq better, not just the province of Wasit.”

The new training approach will institute a mobile training team that will travel to the outlying and local Iraqi police stations and focus on the train-the-trainer program for each station.

“With the timeframe that we’re looking at, it’s real important right now that we start looking at a way that we can start making them more self-reliant and continue their training and be able to have the fundamentals down so when we are gone, they can continue to train and be able to police themselves and not have to look around for answers,” said Dean, of Douglas, Mass.

The training will focus on everything from community policing, ethics, basic law enforcement procedures, crime scene protection, crime scene processing and leadership courses to any identified training that the local police stations may need. The current training structure was built around the assessments from the Wasit Provincial Director of Police Maj. Gen. Ra’ad.

It will also establish different training for the officers, noncommissioned officers and regular IPs.

“Currently they don’t have a training breakdown between the IPs, NCOs and officers, and one of the things we have been looking at is



**Lee Garnand, Iraqi Police Advisor, briefs Maj. Gen. Ra’ad, Wasit Provincial Director of Police, April 9 on the new training strategy for Iraqi police, focused on a sustainable train-the-trainer approach that the IPs can continue to use after coalition forces pull out of Iraq.**

*Photo courtesy of 772nd MP Co.*

how can you as a leader keep accountability of your Iraqi Police officers and keep the standards enforced if you don’t actually understand what they are,” said Dean. “This new training approach will address that problem.”

The training approach is sustainable because not only will the Iraqi Police be trained under the train-the-trainer program, but each police station and the police headquarters will have training officers to track the progress of the training across the province.

“What’s good about the 772 being here is that it is a National Guard Company where we do have a lot of civilian police officers and we bring a lot of civilian policing experience to the table, and that’s another thing that the IPAs

do as well; they bring multiple years of civilian police experience over here. This helps the Iraqi Police get away from the military mindset because the military and the police are two different functions,” said Dean.

“Between the IPAs and the 772 working together, we’re able to bring enough of that civilian experience so that we can mentor them on a level that they should be mentored at,” added Dean.

The new training approach has already been approved by the PDoP and the 772nd MP Co., from Taunton, Mass., and IPAs are scheduled to begin the new training program in the next few weeks, as soon as the PDoP identifies the initial set of T3 instructors to be trained.

## Safety corner: Protect yourself from leishmaniasis

By Kenneth Dickerson  
41st Fires Bde. Safety Officer

As you may have noticed the days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting warmer and the bugs are starting to become ever more present. One bug can cause a particularly nasty infection if you don’t protect yourself.

Leishmaniasis (pronounced LEASH-ma-NIGH-a-sis) is a skin infection carried by infected sand flies. The parasitic disease is characterized by skin sores that develop weeks to months after a person is bitten. The sores can change in size and appearance over time, according to a Center of Disease Control Fact Sheet ([http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/leishmania/factsht\\_leishmania.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/leishmania/factsht_leishmania.htm)).

They often develop raised edges and a central crater (or ulcer), which might be covered by a scab, says the CDC fact sheet. The sores usually are painless but can be painful if they become infected with bacteria.

Even if not treated, the sores usually eventually heal. However, the healing process can take months, sometimes years, and typically results in scarring. The worst cases may require skin grafts. Some people develop swollen glands near the sores.

Leishmaniasis is more common in rural parts of Iraq but has been reported here on FOB Delta. Risk is highest from dusk through dawn

because sand flies are nocturnal. Although sand flies are primarily nighttime biters, infection can be acquired during the daytime if resting sand flies are disturbed (e.g., if you brush against a tree trunk or other resting sites), according to the CDC.

Reducing your exposure to the sand fly is your best bet. You can accomplish this by wearing clothes that cover your skin as much as possible and applying an insect repellent with DEET to exposed skin and under the edges of your uniform (such as your sleeves and pant legs). Try to stay covered up – you can wear bug repellent with your PT T-shirt and shorts, but it won’t be as effective as long sleeves and pants.

Sand flies are small and do not make any noise so it’s easy to underestimate their presence. Keep them out of your sleeping area by keeping your door closed – especially at night – and keeping your room cool. If you’d rather keep your window open for fresh air, make sure your screen doesn’t have any holes. You can enhance your protection by spraying screens and doorways with an pyrethroid-containing insecticide (such as permethrin or deltamethrin), said the fact sheet.

And when you walk around the FOB at night, remember, you’re not alone.

For more military related information, visit the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine Web site: [http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Documents/FACT/18-008-0307\\_Leishmaniasis.pdf](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Documents/FACT/18-008-0307_Leishmaniasis.pdf)

# IA leaders get live update from Texas



On the left screen, Chris Andrews, 41st Fires Brigade interpreter; Col. Richard Francey, brigade commander; and Brig. Gen. Abed Gabr Mazloum, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade commander say hello from the 41st Fires Brigade headquarters at Fort Hood, Texas, to soldiers in Mazloum's brigade, shown on the right screen, in the 41st Fires Bde.'s FOB Delta headquarters via video teleconference April 9.

*Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

**By Sgt. Allison Churchill**  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

While Brig. Gen. Abed Gabr Mazloum, commander of 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade,

visited America with 41st Fires Brigade commander Col. Richard Francey, his unit kept busy in Iraq.

Each side had the chance to share their experiences during a video teleconference held

April 9 in the 41st Fires Bde.'s headquarters on FOB Delta and at Fort Hood.

"We needed the chance to talk to our commander," said Lt. Col. Ali Kaleel.

In the week their commander was gone, 32nd IA Bde., was named best in its division during an inspection by the Ministry of Defense and helped Iraqi Police find rockets that were intended for FOB Delta.

Mazloum had several stories to tell as well. Fort Hood sounds like the Arabic word for lawlessness – so when Mazloum told his troops that the large post in Texas was like heaven, a wave of laughter erupted until he made his point more clearly.

He also told his troops about the differences in climate as the group made their way from Washington, D.C. to Texas and marveled at the size of the Lone Star State.

"It's so big! Bigger than Iraq!" exclaimed Mazloum.

The VTC was Francey's idea, said Maj. Anthony Fields, of Montclair, Va., 41st Fires Bde.'s signal and communications officer-in-charge.

Fields said Francey called from Fort Hood April 7 and asked for the VTC to be set-up. The Iraqis appreciated the opportunity.

"It was good to be able to use technology to keep in touch," said Kaleel.

During the trip the group visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall while in Washington; Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Fort Hood.

## New MiTT marks first month down



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hatfield (right), of Odessa, Texas, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class James Wedding, of Elizabethtown, Ky., logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 32nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team, after he receives his combat patch April 10 after 30 days in the combat theater. The "Team Lucky" Soldiers, from 1st Infantry Division, arrived on FOB Delta approximately six weeks ago.

*Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO*

## Worship Opportunities

### Sunday

<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Traditional Protestant	0900
Latter-day Saints	1030
Gospel Service	1300
Reconciliation service	1830
Catholic Mass (English)	1930

### Monday

<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Catholic Mass	0800

### Tuesday

<i>Mayor Cell</i>	
Bible Study	1930
<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Bible Study	2000

### Thursday

<i>TMC</i>	
Bible Study	1930

### Saturday

<i>Chapel 1</i>	
Catholic Mass	0800
Christian Movie Night	2000

# MPs shed some light on IP operations

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Conducting partnered nighttime police operations without being able to see makes those missions more difficult than they already are.

Soldiers from the 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, 772nd Military Police Company realized the challenges of those missions when they discovered their Iraqi partners didn't have flashlights.

"During a night patrol, we went out there to do a checkpoint and quickly realized it was very difficult to do it without flashlights," said Sgt. Glen MacDonald, from Fell River, Mass. "We had to use ours but they didn't have any at all."

MacDonald reached out to people in his home state of Massachusetts to see if they could help out.

"I have some friends that work for Lowe's Home Improvement, and I made some contacts through my wife, and they went up their chain of command to Maglite, and they donated the

36 free flashlights for us," explained Sgt. Glen MacDonald, from Fell River, Mass.

MacDonald and his squad delivered the flashlights to the Falahea station chief during a regular visit to the station April 8.

"It is helpful for us since we couldn't check everything we are supposed to, especially while conducting searches at traffic control points during the night," said Capt. Thwfiqr, Falahea Iraqi Police station chief.

"We are very appreciative for this gift from the U.S. forces," added Thwfiqr.

"They need to have the bare necessities, obviously weapons and ammunition, but if they are supposed to be out at night, since the electricity around here isn't like it's supposed to be, they're going to need flashlights, it's something they definitely are going to need," said MacDonald.

"Now that they all have them, we can do what we are supposed to do which is stand back and watch them," said MacDonald.



Sgt. Glen MacDonald, 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, 772nd MP Co., poses for a picture with Falahea Iraqi Police station chief Capt. Thwfiqr after delivering 36 flashlights April 8.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

## IA officers visit with students at Meadows Elementary

Originally posted to the Killeen Daily Herald's Web site, [www.kdhnews.com](http://www.kdhnews.com), April 9.

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD – Col. Alauddin Mohialdeen Abdullah answered a question from a Meadows Elementary School fifth-grader Wednesday morning, his Arabic sprinkled with a few familiar phrases: "Nickelodeon," "Spongebob" and "Tom and Jerry."

Those didn't need translation.

During a visit to the school, the Iraq army colonel was asked what American shows and celebrities are popular among kids in his home country.

Meadows fifth-graders are video pen pals with kids in the Wasit

Province in Eastern Iraq. They talk about their lives and ask questions about the other cultures. The exchange started thanks to an adopt-a-school partnership with the 41st Fires Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, led by Lt. Col. Timothy Bush.

Col. Dick Francey, the brigade's commander, visited Meadows Wednesday morning, bringing Abdullah and Brig. Gen. Abed Jebur Madhloom, two officers from the Wasit Province. The two have worked on the Iraqi side of the school partnership. They were accompanied by Chris Andrew, a translator who works alongside Francey in Iraq.

Fort Hood was the last part of a weeklong U.S. tour that included stops in Washington, D.C., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The general and colonel met with Meadows administrators, discussing the education systems in their respective areas. While there are obvious differences in the schools – size and facilities being the most notable – Principal Karol Carlisle said what she was most surprised by was how similar the kids were. They have the same interests and concerns, she added.

"They have the same life you have but in a different culture and different country," Abdullah told the fifth-graders.

Iraqi kids like Western desserts like ice cream and "they dress like you are now," he added.

Carlisle also said that dedication to children is not exclusive to one culture. It is apparent in the interaction, she said.

Abdullah told a group of fifth-graders that he has two children their ages. He and Madhloom snapped photos as they walked through the school, and the Iraqi colonel spoke with two pre-kindergarten children eating in the lunchroom.

Dedication to children is another thing that needs no translation – interaction makes it obvious, Carlisle said.

Visits like Wednesday's are important because "this is where we make the future," Andrew translated for Madhloom, who pointed toward the school. He plans on meeting with educators after returning to Iraq to discuss way they can prepare children like he saw at Meadows.

There are plans to expand the video pen pal program to another fifth-grade class and two fourth-grade classes, Carlisle said. Students are thrilled to hear voices of other children from around the world, she said and she encouraged other school administrators to embrace the idea.

Contact Amanda Kim Stairrett at [astair@kdhnews.com](mailto:astair@kdhnews.com) or (254) 501-7547.



Iraqi army Col. Alauddin Mohialdeen Abdullah speaks with students of Meadows Elementary School with the help of an interpreter Wednesday morning during one of his stops on a tour of Fort Hood.

Photo by David Morris, Killeen Daily Herald

## Dietician gives Soldiers information to chew on

By Sgt. Allison Churchill  
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The human body needs fuel to perform its necessary tasks. Choosing the best fuel can be difficult for deployed Soldiers who don't always have nutrition labels to read.

Dietician Maj. Kelli Metzger, of Gambrills, Md., 10th Combat Support Hospital, visited FOB Delta April 7-10 from Baghdad to teach nutrition classes and give individual counseling to Soldiers who wanted to boost their ability to keep fit.

Metzger's basic class focuses on the "new" food pyramid developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The pyramid, which was updated in 2005, has the food groups shown vertically instead of horizontally, to better reflect that each group is important but in varying amounts, Metzger said. It also now shows a character walking up steps, which has two meanings to Metzger, who works at Walter Reed Army Medical Center when not deployed.

"It shows exercise, but it also means to take things one step at a time," Metzger told a class of Soldiers.

Completely redoing one's diet would be hard to maintain, but if a Soldier adds maybe a fruit or vegetable to his plate at every meal or drinks one less can of soda a day, he'll increase his health and be able to make more changes.

Metzger also urged Soldiers to not cut calories drastically – doing so will slow the metabolism and actually cause a person to gain weight because the body goes into starvation mode, trying to hold on to as many calories as it can.

An easy way to tackle the DFAC, Metzger said, is to take advantage of the sectioned plates for portion control. Soldiers should put vegetables and fruit in the big section of the plate, and use the smaller quarters for their meat and starches.

"I see lots of fruit and vegetable choices," Metzger said, contradicting those who say the DFACs don't have healthy selections.

Metzger said her sports nutrition class focused on Soldiers who plan for marathons and other intense athletic activity.

"It's for people going a little beyond," she said.

Metzger plans to return to FOB Delta, after visiting other outposts of the 10th CSH.

## FOB Delta celebrates Easter



Top: From left: Sgt. Burton Saxton, of Marionetta, Wisc., and Sgt. Nicholas Valade, of Portland, Ore., both paralegal noncommissioned officers; Staff Sgt. Larry Owens, of Palm Bay, Fla., legal noncommissioned officer-in-charge; and Spc. Todd McMahan, of Charleston, S.C., command driver, all of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Brigade, share a joke over Easter lunch at Gunner Inn East Dining Facility April 12.

Middle: Sgt. Crystal Ferren, of Fontana, Calif., communications and electronics noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and her husband, Spc. Rob Ferren, of North Bend, Ore., mechanic, both of Company B, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, enjoy their first Easter depicted as a married couple.

Bottom: Spc. Isaias Clay, of San Antonio, gunner, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Bde., poses next to one of the decorations created by the Najlao catering employees. The battery recently moved to FOB Delta to join the rest of the brigade after spending their first 12 months at Camp Basra.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill  
41st Fires Bde. PAO